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It being impracticable to express in these columns the divergent views of the thousands of members of the American Peace Society, full responsibility for the utterances of this magazine is assumed by the Editor.

THIS SOCIETY

VOLUME 85 of the ADVOCATE begins with the number for January, 1923. Any subscriber wishing the index for volume 84, which ends with this number, will receive it post free upon a written application addressed to this office.

FOR A LIMITED time new subscribers to the ADVOCATE OF PEACE are receiving, free, Jackson H. Ralston's book, "Democracy's International Law," the regular price of which is \$1.50.

THE REALITY OF CHRISTMAS

OF COURSE, we cannot close our eyes to the reality of Christmas now upon us again. The mystic spell of it hovers over all that men think and do. It brightens work and play. This thing of the heart reaches out in infinite expressions, in looks, in acts, and in will to other deeds. It is a kindly thing, and generous. There are the three wise men—Love, Work, Worship—coming out of the dim East of each life to the Bethlehem of its best, offering there their gifts, now as of old. The feast and the Yule Log, the games and the bells and the carols, the green of immortal hopes and the red of essential sacrifice, the music and the star. And in the center, a child!

OTHER REALITIES AT OUR CHRISTMASTIDE

CHRISTMAS, 1922, finds the United States confronted with realities of unusual importance, not devoid of hope.

CENTRAL AMERICAN CONFERENCE

The Central American Conference, speeches referring to which appear in these columns, is proceeding hopefully in Washington. This is a reality in the Christmas cheer of international fact.

LAUSANNE

We are at Lausanne, represented by an admiral, our Minister to Switzerland, and our Ambassador to Italy, pleading for the principle of equality of economic opportunity. By raising our voice against special privilege in economic adjustments between nations, we are rendering a service by clarifying a real international issue, an issue that is a factor vitally related to the problem of peace and war. As a corollary to our principle of the open door, we are pleading for unrestricted access for all nations to every free body of water in the world, including the Black Sea. This means freedom of the Dardanelles, of the Sea of Marmora, and of the Bosphorus. This means demilitarization of all forts, indeed, of all that is now known as the "Zone of the Straits." This is a reality in American foreign policy worthy of our best tradition.

MEXICO

We are confronted with a reality in Mexico. This situation relates primarily to a question of interpretation of Article 27 of the Mexican Constitution. According to this article, subsoil rights, oil and mineral, belong to the State of Mexico. But, before the passage of the Constitution, certain American interests had acquired territory in Mexico, supposing that their titles carried with them subsoil rights. Thus the question arose, Is Article 27 of the Mexican Constitution retroactive? As a matter of fact, the Supreme Court of Mexico has decided five different times that the article is not retroactive. Just now a bill has been introduced in the Mexican Congress calculated to clarify the situation still more. While the Mexican purpose is to nationalize petroleum and its by-products and to deny to foreign governments all concessions to exploit the subsoil wealth of Mexico, it is proposed to revise Article 27